

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel Claims 3-4. Please amend Claim 1. Please add new Claim 5. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Claim Listing

1. (Currently Amended) An underivatized, aqueous soluble  $\beta$ -glucan composition preparation in consisting essentially of a triple helix conformation which enhances killing activity of immune cells glucan receptor binding over single helix conformation and does not induce an inflammatory response.
- 2.-4. (Cancelled)
5. (New) An underivatized, aqueous soluble  $\beta$ -glucan composition consisting essentially of a triple helix conformation, which has a higher affinity for glucan receptors on monocytes than underivatized  $\beta$ -glucan in single helix conformation, but which does not induce the productions of IL-1 and TNF by mononuclear cells *in vitro* or *in vivo*.